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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/520,249	03/07/2000	Richard Henry Weese	99-009 (RH2-0011)	9888
7590 Ronald S Hermenau Rohm and Haas Company 100 Independence Mall West Philadelphia, PA 19106-2399	01/17/2007		EXAMINER CAIN, EDWARD J	
			ART UNIT 1714	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	01/17/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/520,249	WEESE
	Examiner Edward J. Cain	Art Unit 1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 33-35 and 42-44 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 33-35 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

The amendment received 10/19/06 has been made of record. Claims 33-35 and 42-44 are pending.

The indicated allowability of claims 32 and 36-41 contained in the previous office action is withdrawn upon further consideration of the prior art of record.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 33, 35, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB '185.

GB '185 discloses PVC/elastomer blends as discussed in previous office actions. Applicants have previously argued that this reference teaches the combination of each of the polymeric components in latex form. This argument is revisited here.

GB '185 does state "the latex obtained in this invention and the polyvinyl chloride can be blended, and the resulting blend is subjected to salting out". Applicants arguments rely on this 'salting out' step and other steps taught by the reference which are typically applied to latex formulations as support for their conclusion that both components must be in latex form at the time of mixing. It is the position of the examiner, however, that the language of the reference leaves open the possibility of the PVC being in dry form since it is being added to a latex which can result in the mixture being predominantly liquid and subject to process steps typically applied to a latex.

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In the alternative, applicants' composition claims are not seen as distinguishing over the compositions of the reference even if the latter are limited in interpretation to a combination of two lattices.

In either case, the graft copolymer elastomer of the reference is seen as fulfilling the roll of polymeric processing aid in light of the definition of this component in instant claim 35.

Claims 33, 34, and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Newman et al.

Newman et al disclose polymer blends produced by combining rubber latex with a dry particulate resin. The rubber may suitably comprise butadiene and acrylonitrile while the dry resin may be PVC (see example 11). The further addition of lubricant is disclosed.

While the lubricant may not be pre-added to the latex, no difference is seen in the resulting product.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward J. Cain whose telephone number is (571) 272-1118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571 272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edward J. Cain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714

